

Bell companies operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning will stimulate competition and be of benefit to the consumers. To not do so would cripple the '96 Telecom Act. Chairman Powell: Please do not sell out to BIG BUSINESS, at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country.

In the rural area where I live, high speed internet is not available. I get by with using regular phone lines. ISP's outside of the major communications companies provide service that is affordable to most Americans that wish to use the internet casually. Competition promotes affordable prices. Bell is trying to use the FCC to provide them with a government approved monopoly. Independent ISP's provide affordable internet access with out government control or intervention.